GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3352
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
CIVIL AVIATION IN NORTH EAST REGION
SAMAR CHOUDHURY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for better schedule and augmented services of Civil Aviation in the North East region have been received by the Union Government from the States for the airports of Agartala, Dibrugarh, Lilabari (North Lakhimpur) Silchar and Dimapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the seat K.M. ratio maintained by the Indian Airlines for deployment of flights could not cope up with the passengers rush;

(d) if so, whether any study for inducting short take off and landing aircraft into the North East circuit has been made; and

(e) if not, the details of arrangement made to connect the remote hill areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Requests for augmentation of capacity/frequency and airlinking more places in the region have been received.

(c) Indian Airlines is currently deploying about 17.7% of its trunk route capacity on category-II routes as against the 10% prescribed under the Route Dispersal Guidelines. At present, Indian Airlines is, not in a position to increase the deployment further due to capacity and commercial constraints.

(d) and (e): A Committee set up by the Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA) to study `Air Transport Operation in the North East` in its report of December, 1999 had, inter-alia, studied the generic viability of small aircraft and also reviewed the Indian Airlines project report on operation of ATR-42 aircraft.

Indian Airlines is carrying out further analysis of the project report in respect of acquisition of six 50 seater aircraft. With a view to encourage small aircraft (turbo-prop) operations to connect smaller and non-metro cities, it has been decided to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to such aircraft at international prices and notify ATF as a `declared good` under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. The modalities of implementing these decisions are under examination.